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1948

FIRKA DEVELOPMENT **(195 ..) Department**

MS. **SERIES.**

G.O. No. 392

Dated 28th June, 1948.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Committee--Provincial Firka Development Board--First Meeting held on 17.12.47--Proceedings etc.,--Papers Recorded.

Minutes of the Provincial Firka Development Board, held in the first meeting room at 9 A.M. on Monday the 19th October 1947.

The following were also present by special invitation.

1. Dr. J.C. Kumarappa.
2. Sri G. Ramachandram.
3. Sri C.V. Hanumantha Rao, Director of Information and publicity.
4. Sri T.V. Raghava Rao. Regional Firka Development office.
5. Sri V.R. Chirka Deputy Director of Industries and Commer
6. Sri Ragam Ayyar. Personal Assistant to the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

The honourable Sri O.P. Ramaswami Reddiar, the Premier, in opening the meeting (in Tamil) said:-

I welcome you all and I thank one ~~XXX~~ and all for the ready response you have made. The meeting has been convened to find out ways and means to work out the Firka Development Board scheme. Till now it has not been possible to work it properly. If things are to work well it is essential that both official and non-official personnel should co-operate ~~co-operate~~ and carr out the work successfully. Several of our people are anxious that the scheme should be worked very well in each and every village. If that is to happen it is essential that the official should take an interest in it. I am emphasising this aspect so much, because it has been brought to my notice that the officials are not taking as much interest in it as they a re expected to. I should here refer to the Firka Development Officer also and emphasise that they should co-operate and put their seal in it so that the scheme might be worked. Because I find from several of them the periodical reports due from the several firkas in the districts have not been received so far. If estimates relating to communications, watersupply, public health etc. are received at the proper time it would be possible to push through the schemes without delay. I do not know why reports have not been received from some of the firkas. I am unable to understand where they are held up. Is it in the Collector's office or anywhere else? Have they reached the Secretariat? It will be possible to work the scheme well only if we draw up a plan and find out as to which schemes should receive immediate attention and which could be postponed. I seethat estimates had been prepared for the construction of roads. I also see that estimates have been prepared for assuring water-supply. If we are to carry out all the schemes the finance available at present is quite inadequate. I find from a casual perusal it will cost more than a crore for Communications, and more than two crores for Water-supply. I fin some of the estimates had been prepared on the basis that water pumps should be installed. In several of the villages it is a fact that some of these pumps were installed long ago and they have become out of order now. Though much of this expenditure has been incurred it has not been possible for the villages to take advantage of these because of their incapacity and lack of knowledge to work them properly. So we have to bestow more attention and find out whether it is worth while to instal these pumps. I think we will not be doing the right thing. The question of supplying water pumps could be taken up after ~~XX~~ digging wells and seeing how villagers are making use of them. As regards sanitation no doubt villagers and the officers are doing something. It will be a good thing if villagers prepare their manure without outside help. I find no provision made for this in the scheme. This is important both from the sanitary and agricultural point of view. With good manure, good and sufficient foodcrops could be raised. So we should teach villagers how to prepare manure pits. We must teach them to dig pits here and there, gather all the waste things and put them there and see that they are not exposed to sun and rain

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Due to constant exposure to sun and rain, the essence of manure is lost. Thereby only 1/6 the of the essence of manure is available to the villager; the balance 5/6 th is lost. To encourage correct manurepits, periodical award of prizes can be arranged, I think first attention should be paid to this, as several crores worth of manure is lost.

Next, there are a lot of uneconomic holdings in villages. We must see how best they can be utilised to the advantage of villager. We should also bestow some attention to irrigation. Irrigation is now in the hands of Minor Irrigation Department and Public Works Department. The latter are now doubt doing something in their sphere of action. But I do not think the former are doing as much as they are expected to do. There are 26,600 tanks in this province, of which 2,000 tanks are in the custody of the Public Works Department and the rest are under the charge of the Minor Irrigation Department. Government are spending only 15 lakhs of rupees for minor irrigation. And of this sum, five lakhs go as establishment charges., and the balance ten lakhs is spent on the works. There are 24 lakhs of acres of ayacut under Minor Irrigation. Only if the tanks are kept properly will it be possible to raise one crop at least under this ayacut. Again, the tanks in this presidency are classified into five groups, of which, three groups are under the care of the Public Works Department and the rest with the Minor Irrigation Department. These tanks are capable of storing water ranging from 15 days to 2½ days to 2½ monnhs, and unless their capacity is increased crop production cannot be increased. Day by day the ayacut under them is increasing but the capacity of the tanks is kept in proper condition the ayacutdars cannot pull on. For this a tank restoration department should be established and several crores will have to be spent on it. Though we get 90 lakhs from the people we spend only 30 lakhs on them. So it is necessary that Government officers should bestow more attention and care to see that the villagers get their proper return."

Continuing the chairman said that the villager should be taught what diet he should take, so that he could get proper nutrition at less cost. Adverting again to the subject of manure, he said, that manure was of two kinds, organic and inorganic. The cultivator should be taught how to utilise them. After 14 years of trial it had been discovered that food from inorganic manure was injurious to health, and pigeons fed on that, died immediately. 80 per cent of the seeds taken from that kind of crop did not germinate. As a general proposition it could be said that the manure might be one fourth in organic and three-fourth organic to get a good produce. Of late it had become the practice to use nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia. The ryots should be told the exact proportion in which they should be mixed.

The chairman stressed that the villagers should use only hand-pounded rice. The percentage of rice mills in the province was 70 to 80 per cent; while in the other provinces it was only 20 to 40 per cent. "Hence we are in the forefront of civilisation." Even after propaganda it would not be possible for some time to make people completely to get rid of the habit of eating milled rice. People would jeer at them for reverting to old methods. But still the truth, that important elements of mutrition was lost by milling rice should be brought home to them. This, the firka development officers could achieve successfully. He was glad to learn that villagers were willing to contribute mite to carry out urgent schemes.

Continuing he said: "Under Prohibition we are losing 17 crores every year. Thus we are already in deficit, and at the same time we should see that Prohibition is worked properly. It is only in India people spend most of their income on drink. In 1900 the income of Government under this head was 1,45,000; before the war, in 1939, it was 5 crores, and to-day it is 17 crores. This illustrates how in drink we are on the advance: Even if we have Swaraj, unles people give up the evil habit of drink it will not be possible to achieve true freedom. Therefore to attain freedom in the real sense people should develop their character. That is

That is why Mahatma Gandhi emphasised the great need for Prohibition. It is the unique privilege of this province to initiate this Prohibition scheme. Of course, if we think for a moment how Prohibition has been working I cannot assure it is working very well. Hence it is the duty of one and all to see that it works well. Not only this, even in the firkas selected for kr firka development we have been enforcing Prohibition, that is, it obtains in twenty seven firkas. Prohibition is yet to be introduced in eight districts; in the belt areas it is possible for people to get drunk. So it is the duty of the villagers and officers in those areas to see that Prohibition is enforced. If it is not done, it will Monly show to the world our inefficiency. Hence I request one and all to see that the scheme is worked well."

Mr. J.C. KUMARAPPA then addressed the meeting. He thanked the Premier for affording him an opportunity to meet them all. It was a great privilege for them to be asked, as it were, to lay the foundation of a new India. Since they had achieved freedom it is but fair that they should rebuild their country. If it was a great privilege it was also a tremmendous responsibility. To his mind the firkas were laboratories where it was to be tried as to how India was to be built.

Very few people knew what to eat. Their system of education was thoroughly wrong from top to botton. Sothey had to be taught what to eat and what not to eat. With regard to inorganic manures, even the ratio of one-fourth inorganic manure to three-fourth organic manure sometimes proved too much in particular cases, as inorganic manures were in the nature of drugs. He deplored a lot of money was being wasted in researches, when they could be usefully spent in teaching people how to utilise excowdung as manure. He narrated how in the Punjab, experiment with cowdung had been done in a laboratory, how megathin gas was used as a fertiliser, and the fermented reduce was used for other purposes in the laboratory.

Continuing he said that the firkas should be treated as miniature laboratories, here they should develop the idea of rebuilding the country. Out of the 34 firkas, one or two might be chosen for intensive work. They should be built up in the form of republics where people governed themselves without outside help, from where no money was taken away, but if necessary, money might be put to try the experiment. Perhaps one firkaK in Tamil Nad and one firka in Andhra areas might be taken first. Generally any reconstruction scheme began with Communications, as it was the easiest thing to do and as it was the most important thing in a village. But he feared, communications drew out from the village, and that was why the Central Government and the Provincial Government were keen on opening roads. In his opinion allthat money could be spent on irrigation, tanks and ponds.

Regarding firka development, he said, that there should be a good lay-out first. Since self-sufficiency was the baXsis of the scheme, they should first see to make available land for the various items of food articles according to the population of the firka. Oil-ressing, Poultry farming, dairy farming, cottage industries all could be carried on there. Forest areas, for fodder and fuel, should be attached to the areas. The revenue arising from those firkas should not be taken away, but should be spent within that area. Should the income from the firkas be insufficient to meet the demands, sufficient funds should be earmarked to be put into the firkas. If possible a soil laboratory of each firka should be started.

The speaker then empnasised the need to KK have a

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balanced diet. In England they had it already. During his last visit he saw how the health of the English people had improved after the war. Before the war they were meat-eaters. But during the war as no meat was available they had to depend on vegetable for a balanced diet. So every home had a small garden attached to it, where cabbages, tomatoes and all other necessary articles of food were grown to make their diet self-sufficient. The same thing could be done in India also.

Concluding the speaker said there must be a complimentary programme for Prohibition. When Prohibition threw out tappers out of employment, they should be given work elsewhere. For example, he said, date palm trees and palmyrah trees should be tapped for preparing gur and sugar. If this was done on a large scale there would not be any necessity to grow sugarcane for the manufacture of sugar.

Mr. G. Ramachandran said that he had the experience of carrying out the basic education scheme at Wardha. He said the village had an important place in our national economy. We had so far paid little attention to village life, though 80 per cent of our population lived in villages. Life there was deteriorating day by day, As a practical man he foresaw that the bulk of the people in India would continue to live in villages for decades together. Of late there was a rush from villages to the town. And those who thus came away were men of ability, enterprise, resource and education. The reason for that was that there was something better in the urban areas, which was lacking in the villages. And this exodus from the villages could be prevented by a programme of better kind of life there. For that trained workers were necessary. Firka Development work was by itself difficult, ~~co-ordination of the work was still more difficult~~, co-ordination of the work was still more difficult, and the officers now appointed are only few, and they would be like a drop in the ocean. So he advised to start training centres first for workers along with the firka development scheme.

Mr. N.S. Varadachari said that it was too late in the day to think of working out the scheme on a laboratory scale. As some firkas had already begun to work he favoured continuance of it with suitable alterations wherever necessary. He gave water-supply priority to communications. For, in places like Saliamangalam, in the midst of the Cauveri delta, it is all brackish water in wells. People suffered greatly for want of drinking water. Continuing he did not favour equal distribution of funds to all firkas. For, some firkas might make rapid progress due to local response or to the energy of officers or due to other causes. Every endeavour should be made to carry out the scheme on contribution basis from the people. He favoured training of officers in small batches. Every firka should be supplied with at least 1000 charkas for khadi development work.

Mr. M. Papineedu disagreed with Mr. Kumarappa in spending the revenues of each firka within themselves as it might result in every village asking for the same thing. He agreed with Mr.N.S.Varadachari regarding watersupply and communications. He wanted a uniform distribution of money among all the firkas.

Mr. Mothey Narayana Rao said that the very good work so far done in firkas was due to the initiative of the firka development officers and not with the co-operation of the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Government. As the workers were all trained men this was possible. Given proper opportunities a great deal of work could be done. He found there was not much of co-operation from other departments of Government. He suggested, vesting full powers with the firka development officers to carry on the scheme. All power from the Collector, Deputy Collector, Tahsildar and Engineers should be removed to work this schemes successfully. Co-operative agricultural societies might be started and with the help of agricultural demonstrators the programme of self-sufficiency in food could be effectively carried out.

Mrs....

MRS. T.S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN said that they should decide what their first step should be rather than talk about their policy and ideal.

MR. Manikonda Satyanarayana Sastri said they should have a correct picture of what their future society should be. Then they could work out schemes, whether it be in select areas or in all the areas.

DR. GURUBADAM said that though he is a doctor their attempt at rural reconstruction should be from the top and not from the bottom. He emphasised greater attention should be paid to agriculture. Khadi, education, public health and roads, all had their place, but the first emphasis should be placed on food. A farmer could get on with a loin-cloth "Save him from the policeman, the revenue inspector, the village munsif and the moneylender. Give him time to develop himself. sav. with the help of the agricultural demonstrator."

AFTER LUNCH.

The chairman said that as he was not keeping good health he found it difficult to sit at length and so he requested the members to finish the business precisely at 5 p.m.

Item 3 in the agenda was taken up for discussion
The Secretary said that at present there was no definite programme for firka development and so he had drawn up a rough plan and he invited discussion on the same. He said that their aim was to work for a just society along peaceful lines--a thoroughgoing co-operative democracy. At present in the absence of a definite programme thefirka development officers were doing work in their own way and the Collector was not able to sanction any edpenditure.

Sri Manikonda Satyanarayana Sastri said that items 3 and 6 might be considered together. He said that their aim was what their society should be. He had already submitted his memorandum in this behalf. Their aim at present should not be to do patch work here and there; the whole village should be taken as a unit; the entire land and the produce therefrom should be owned by the villagers in common, and the definition of their future society as set out by the Secretary approached his own definition.

Mr.A. Kelappan said that the previous speaker was aiming at expropriation of land and he envisaged a socialistic state.

Mr. T. Subramaniam said that they were losing themselves in idealogical and philosophical propositions. The items in the agenda were neither thoroughing nor co-operative and democratic in character. They should not use highsounding phrases but should be humble in the choice of words to suit their programme. Their aim was to make village life better and happier and to so he requested the members to come to a correct programme.

Prof. G. Ramachandra Rao said that the memorandum submitted by M. Satyanarayana Sastri and himself were prepared long before the Secretary prepared his note and he found there was much overlapping between the two and so the aim set out in item 3 in the agenda might be accepted, and they should now consider how that should be achieved and what should be the programme.

The Secretary said that to work any programme the first re-

quisite....

requisite was training for the workers and he read out the trai - ning programme he had drawn up.

Mr. S. Ramaswami Naidu said that for khadi work training might be required, but for road making, sanitation and the like no training was needed. He said that if six month' training was to be accepted there would be no work done for the next six months.

Mr. G. Ramachandran intervening said that training was essential. Village uplift work consisted in khadi work, village industries work and basic education; and it was why Mr. Kumarappa had fixed two years' training for that. For sanitation, Government had fixed ten months' training. Untrained workers would defeat the very purpose of the work and so the training suggested by the Secretary was very important.

The Secretary said that training was necessary for both workers and village development officers; what he had placed before them was a rough plan, the details of which had to be prepared later on.

Dr. Guruhadam warned that they were still discussing without a definite aim. He suggested that the Board might break up into a number of committees, one for sanitation, one for cottage industries, one for irrigation, one for communication and so on, and might bring forward proposals at the next meeting of the board. Everybody had ideas, everybody had experience but nobody was able to bring a definite scheme. Hence he suggested the setting of small sub-committees.

The Secretary said if the suggestion was to be accepted he feared for the next six months no work would be done.

After some discussion the Secretary moved the following resolution:-

" This board authorises the following sub-committee consisting of not more than 6 persons in addition to the Provincial Firka Development Officer and the Regional Firka Development Officer, in the light of discussions that have taken place at this sitting of the board (i) to draw up a detailed scheme for the firka development work, (ii) to draw up a detailed plan for the training of workers under the scheme and (iii) to provide for the effective supervision and inspection of the work and to submit its proposals to Government in regard to these matters within a week's time:-

1. Sri J.C. Kumarappa
2. Sri R.R. Keithan
3. Sri G. Ramachandran
4. Sri Manikonda Satyanarayana Sastri
5. Sri K. Kelappan
6. Sri Mothy Narayana Rao

It was decided that the subcommittee should meet at 9A.M. on 20.10.1947 at Adyar.

Sri N.S. Varadachari said that it would not be possible to finish the work in a week's time. He suggested that his resolutions might be adopted and work started immediately in the light of experience already gained and some definite shape migh t be given to the scheme.

Sri. K. Kelappan agreed with the suggestion of Mr. Varadachari and said that no experience was needed for watersupply, sanitation and communication work. No funds were available for the schemes ...

already...

already in existence, as the Collector had no power to sanction expenditure. If all work is to be directed from the centre it would take a long time to materialise. So if Government gave immediately some allotment to each firka the schemes could be implemented in a short time.

Sri K.K. Subbanna Gounder M.L.A. suggested that the villagers knew their requirements and they could be immediately produced with. These could be easily found out, to which schemes they would be willing to make a contribution towards the cost. In the meanwhile the sub-comittee could proceed with its work.

Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai was of the opinion that no separate training was required as the service of workers who had done substantial work in the various centres like Kallupatti, Chidambaram and others were available.

Sri Annam Kannaiah warned the meeting that they were not able to make a definite start.

Sri Mothly Narayana Rao deplored that a lot of time was spent already in discussion without being able to come to a definite conclusion.

At this stage the chairman asked Mr. J.C. Kumarappa to help the Board with his advice. Mr. J.C. Kumarappa said that he had been watching the debate sufficiently long. It was not as if they were in a muddle. What it really meant was, they were trying to get out of a muddle, in which they were really in. It was interesting to see how desperate efforts were made to get out of the muddle. It was like a man stuck up in quicksand. In his attempt to extricate one leg he got both his leg stuck up deeper and deeper. The speaker was himself trying to find a way out. His own feeling was that it was very important to have an overall plan. All of them were differing in details. "When we want to have a large colony built up the first thing that we do is to have a general lay out, then have the roads put up and then chalk out where the houses are to be built. In that way the whole plan is made and it takes five or ten or fifteen years to finish the entire scheme. In that way with regard to firka development they should have an overall plan. The details might be worked out later on." The details might differ from place to place. For example, as pointed out by Sri Varadachari the hill firka requirements might differ from the plan firka and the working of the plan depends on the ability of the officers of the response one got from the people. What exactly the requirements of each firka could be learnt from the firka itself. The draft of the Secretary was a broad outline, the details to be filled up with the requirements of each firka. Therefore he was not quite sure whether they wanted a sub-committee. Probably it would be able to do only patch work. If they wanted to build up villages ---the villages are an entity, they represent a culture in toto they would grow, and the growth might differ from one firka to another or from village to village, and the sum total of that, will reflect our national aspect whether it be political, social or economic -- all that would take care of themselves if particularised items are separated from general items. They might start with food, clothing and shelter; in fact all of them were agreed on that point. Generally villagers knew their requirements though sometimes they laid wrong emphasis on having motor buses, cinemas and the like. In this the Board should take a little wider view of things. So it might have subcommittees to crystallise the discussions that took place in the Board. If the Government were prepared to work the overall plan the scheme could be worked up. It might be

that....

that some firkas might work one item first, another firka another another item, and one of two firkas might be chosen to work all the items. In that way latitude might be given in the working of the firka development. But in all this, they would have to cut across well defined departmental rules and practice. The choce of particular items to ~~XX~~ be worked might be left to the Premier or the sub-committee. There were men of considerable experience on the Board, as expressed by Sri Vedaratham Pillai. But at present the speaker felt that the Secretary was feeling embarrassed to ~~X~~ shoulder the responsibility and so wanted a sub-committee as a kind of fence round himself. With the help of the Premier and the firka development officers they might have a general idea of the lines on which they should work and with a certain amount of approval from high quarter they might take up the schemes with confidence. Personally he felt there was considerable want of training on the part of workers. The present day educated man ~~had~~ had nothing of training. The speaker narrated two instances from the Central Provinces. The villagers required training in~~X~~ the art of living. The type of training he had in view was different from what some of the members of the board were thinking. Present day educationconsisted merely in acquiring information. That was not training. In his opinion even an M.B.B.S. lacked training. What he had acquired only was technical knowledge, and what he required was training in the art of living. That was the most important thing for a firka development officer. Therefore training centres were quite essential. So he advised the board to set up a sub-committee, an after it had crystallised the ideas of the members of the board the board might meet again and then there might be discussion on the details. He advised the oard not to spend much time in discussing what should be their deology. As Dr. Gurubadam said agriculture was the source of ll their things in this world. So if they laid out a scheme f balanced economy and balaneed cultivation they would be solving great problem without going into the idelogy of things.

The Board agreed to form the sub-committee.

Prof. Ramachandra Rao wanted to include removal of untouchaility' as one of the items for village uplift, and that every member f the Firka Development staff should to sign a pledge that be observesno Sri N.S. Varadachari opposed it, also Mr. Kumarappa and/ untouchability/ aid that untouchability should be ~~reserved~~removed in a gradual course rather than insisting upon it and that people would not be made ntouchability--

Item 4 in the agenda.

The Assistant Secretary said that items 1 and 2 in the agenda were for the information of the board. Itme 3 and just been disposed of and item 4 dealing with communications and watersupply might be taken up. One lakh of rupees as available for communications and fifty thousand rupees as available for rural water supply. It was proposed to dig new wells repair old wells; only draw wells were contemplated under this scheme. He wantedto know whether the Collectors might be asked to prepare the detailed estimates.

Mr. N.S. Varadachari said that for communication and watersupply, Government officers had already prepared a five-year plan, ~~MX~~ What the Board should now do is to carry out that scheme. In the speaker's opinion 50,000 rupees was a modest sum for communi - cations. Putting in a vehement plea for good village roads, he said: "Don't treat village roads as a nuisance. It can be made by voluntary labour. Village roads are intended for village carts. Keep them in good condition. Don't go away with the notion that you have to make indifferent roads to be swept away by the monsoon. Our village roads should look better than town roads. Let there be at least two good roads instead of twenty indifferent roads. Roads without bridges and culverts are no roads at all."

"Abbut...

"About water-supply let us not go by a rule or thumb. Wells will suit some places and will not suit some other places. Except advice will be required in some places. In some places it will be brackish water; in some places it will be saline water; in some places there will be no water at all; in some places wells will not be possible at all. So let us consult experts in this matter and get on properly. Let us be true to our nation. Let us be working in this present age with the modern outlook on life.

Sri A. Vedaratham Pillai inquired whether district boards should not be asked to contribute towards the construction of village roads, and the chairman answered 'yes'

Electricity.

Mr. Kuriyan said that the first priority had been given to Agriculture. All the schemes, for their sanction, depended on technical possibility and economic soundness. By technical possibility was meant that they could not have power set on lines running too long, and by economic soundness was meanst that there should be a certain amount of return for the money spent. Generally they expected a ten per cent return on electric schemes. Government were now conserving every ounce of energy available for agricultural extension and they had already planned for 1½ years. It might be some of them were not economically sound. In his opinion, such uneconomic extensions could be postponed till better conditions prevailed.

AGRICULTURE.

The Director of Agriculture (Mr. M.S. Sivaraman, I.C.S.) said that they had already a five-year plan. It had among other things supply of improved seeds and manure. That scheme was much more comprehensive than the firka development scheme. The department was already tackling soil erosion, for example, in Bellary and Anantapur Districts Soil erosion obtained in hill areas and undulating areas. It had now become the regular duty of maistries to attend to manure pits. Tree planting also had recently been begun. Continuing he said he would like to say a word about selfsufficiency in food of firkas. In his opinion merely to take a geographical unit and try to make it self-sufficient in food was not possible in all cases; and this was particularly the case in urban firkas, like Bezwada and Rajahmundry. The Assistant Secretary interrupted the speaker and said that the 1 test order of Government was to exclude urban areas from the scheme. The Director of Agriculture then said that there were such firkas like Kollegal and Pattiveeranpatti which specialised in silk and grape vine and it was not possible to make them self-sufficient . To make them self-sifficient the area of the firka should be extended so as to make available in the firka all articles of food.

Mr. J.C. Kumarappa intervening said that next to food he would give priority for commercial crops.

COMMUNICATION.

The Chief Engineer (Highways) (Mr. W.H. Turner) said that already the district authorities had schemes drawn up and for want of funds they have been held in abeyance. There was already a five-year plan and a ten-year plan prepared. If technical sanction was obtained the Collector might ask the firka development officers to carry out those schemes. The Highway Department....

ment would help the officers in all possible ways to make the scheme a success.

CHAIRMAN: If money is given, will you be in a position to give the estimates soon?

Mr. W.H. TURNER: If it is a matter of land acquisition and if we are to stick to rules it might take years; but where land was available technical sanction might be given soon, as most of the schemes are not large. We shall make special arrangements to sanction them in five or ten minutes (?) I shall see they are sanctioned.

Item 5

Sri G. Ramachandran: Is there any proposal to reduce the existing staff anywhere?

The Assistant Secretary replied that some village development officers may be replaced by technical people. They were not found suitable to the task. On the ground of inefficiency some of them may have to be replaced by technical people.

Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai asked whether there was any proposal to alter any firka. The Chairman replied in the negative.

The chairman in winding up the proceedings thanked the members for having responded to the invitation to give Governme... the benefit of their ripe experience. He specially thanked Mr.Kumarappa and Mr. G. Ramachandran for their response and advice. Continuing he said that Government were prepared to help firka development in all ways possible. He appealed to Government officers to render all help to make the scheme a success. "Nowadays there are several educated men who can be employed in village reconstruction work. I hope they will come forward in large numbers. Besides, there are several pensioners among us. It would be a great and good thing if the pensioners will go back to villages, settle there and do village reconstruction work. I thank one and all for your ready responses to our invitation and for your valuable advice."

The meeting then broke up (at 5-20 P.M.)

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To Assistant Secretary.

Please see the proceedings of the first meeting of the Provincial Firka Development Board on page 45-66 c.f.

'A' on page 48, 49 and 51 c.f. For orders whether relevant extracts may be communicated to the Development Department for necessary action. Subject to orders a draft u.o. Note is submitted for approval.

'B' on page 49 c.f. and 'E' on page 52 c.f:-

For orders whether extracts may be communicated to the Revenue Department. For necessary action. A draft U.O. Note is submitted for approval.

'C' on page 49 c.f:- A nutrition Officer is attached to the Food Department. For orders whether an extract may be communicated to that Department. A draft U.O. Note is submitted for approval.

'D' on page 50 c.f.:- For orders whether an extract may be communicated to all F.D. (~~Food~~ Rural Department Officers). They

may.....

may be requested to make necessary proganda in this regard. A draft memo is submitted for approval.

'F' on page 53:- (c.f.) Action has already been taken in this regard separately by the Rural Firka Development Officers No action, therefore seems necessary on this for orders.

'G' on page 63 c.f. :- An extract may be communicated to the Local Administration Department for necessary action. A draft U.O. note is submitted for approval.

(Sd.)

FIRKA DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

AMENDMENT.

For the two paras in between the sentences 'The Board agreed to form the Sub Committee' and 'Item 4 in the agenda' on page 8 of the proceedings please read the following.

"Professor Ramachandra Rao wanted to include 'removal of untouchability'as one of the items for village uplift and that every member of the Firka Development Staff should sign a pledge that he observes no untouchability.

Sri N.S. Varadachari and Mr. Kumarappa said that untouchability should be removed in a gradual course rather than insisting upon it and the people should not be made untouchability conscious.

Mr. Raghava Rao pointed out that the above condition was already implied in the service of the Firka Development staff and that the Provincial Firka Development Officers insists that the Firka Development Officers and Village Development Officers should pay as much attention to the removal of untouchability as to the use of Khadi"

X X X X X

Under 'Agriculture' on page 8 of the proceedings for the third sentence "The Department was already tackling soil erosion for example in such places as Bezwada and Saliamangalam" please read "The Department was already tackling soil erosion for example in Bellary and Anantapur Districts."

(Sd.)

FIRKA DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

To A.S.

This file deals with the proceedings etc of the first meeting of the Provincial Firka Development Board held on 19.10.47. Submitted that no further action is necessary in this file. For orders whether the papers may now be recorded as G.O.Ms.

(Sd.)

OFFICE ASSISTANT

C.N.V./ MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

7.1.

24/6/54

G.O.Ms.No.392 dated/28.6.48.

Committee--Provincial Firka Development Board First meeting held on 19.10.47--Proceedings etc--Papers--Recorded.

(Sd.)